**Press Release.**

**Rotary’s Hydro-Mobile Clinic for Ghana.**

***‘To provide Maternity & Child Health Services in and area of extreme poverty.’***

Sunday January 29th at the Mercure Royal Hotel will see the ‘Launch & Lunch’ of a river boat made in Hull for use as a medical facility for outreach areas in the Upper Volta river area in Northern Ghana.

Some eighteen months ago the Rotary International Foundation team, which looks after an extensive area of Humberside and the East Riding, met to discuss an initiative led by the And Albert Foundation, headed locally by David Murden. David’s appeal was for assistance in providing badly needed medical help to almost inaccessible areas in Northern Ghana where his Foundation has been established for some time.

With the continuing involvement of John Prescott, Kofi Anan, David Bellamy and Professors at WISE much is being made of the need for help, but on enquiry it was revealed actual financial assistance was not forthcoming for this first Medical boat.

Having established the need the Rotary Team set about using the contacts in the immediate are of Hull to raise initial funds to build a suitably durable River Boat to collect patients for treatment. The charity Jacob’s Well Appeal then advised of their existing connections with an extensive hospital complex in Ghana called Kings Village. Contact was then made by the Rotary Club of Hull Paragon with the local Ghanaian Rotary Club of Tamale thus enabling the local Rotary Clubs to comply with Rotary International Grant funding conditions.

 The first objective was to find a suitable boat builder and Seahorse Marine, surprisingly with previous trading links with Ghana, provided professional design and building facilities. Built of virtually indestructible high density polyethylene, even the colour green being selected to deter mosquitoes the boat has been custom designed to handle both mobile and stretcher case patients. The boat will also be capable of carrying medical equipment and temperature controlled vaccines.

The boat has been built specifically to operate in a river environment particularly in shallow water.

The choice of a name for the boat, **Wilberforce I**, was to a certain extent obvious as it would be operating in the area of the old slave routes, appropriately **‘made in Hull’ and as it happens, delivered during Hull City of Culture Year.**

**It was the intention that the provision of this boat was to encourage the delivery of further boats provide by further local subscription.**

2.

With financial support from the following Rotary Clubs…………………

**Hull Paragon (Lead Club)**

Hull Kingston

Humberside

South Cave and Wolds.

Beverley.

Holderness.

Hornsea & East Riding.

………………………..together with a Global Grant facilitated by the Foundation of Rotary International has resulting in funding being raised to finance this project.

The Hydro-Mobile Clinic will be on display on the Car Park area in the front of the Mercure Royal on the Sunday morning.

Through the generosity of the And Albert Foundation and Jacob’s Well Appeal the boat, complete with launch trailer will be delivered to Ghana shortly after the ‘launch’.

Sunday 29th January 12.00 noon sees all interested parties meeting to ‘launch’ the boat. Refreshments will be available.

**Key Contacts.**

**Rotary International Foundation Team.**

Len Taylor. Past District Chairman.  07774 264000

Mike Holdstock. Finance Controller, Lead Club, Rotary Club of Hull Pentagon

Roy Bright. Grant Advisor.

**Additional participants available at the ‘launch’**

David Murden. And Albert Foundation

Rev. John Beynon and Dr. Alistair Robertson, Jacob’s Well Appeal

Roger Prince Seahorse Marine.

For further detail and attending guest list please contact Len Taylor. 07774 264000

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